UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/NGO/39
11 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Joint written statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women and the World Confederation of Labour, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category I), the American Association of Jurists, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, the International Indian Treaty Council and the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II), Centre Europe-Tiers Monde, International Educational Development, the International Falcon Movement, the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism and the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[11 August 1995]

1. An investigative report by the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group published in 1994 stated that for 15 years the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran has resorted to more than 100 terrorist assaults on the lives of Iranian dissidents in 18 different countries throughout the world. The Government of Iran has been reprimanded by different bodies of the

United Nations for passing death sentences against its citizens beyond its borders. Owing to the worsening domestic situation, however, Iran's leaders have continue to sanction assassinations of their opponents abroad.

2. On Wednesday, 17 May 1995, two women members of the Iranian Resistance were shot from behind in their car in a Baghdad street and killed instantly. One, Mrs. Effat Haddad, was a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCR), the Resistance's Parliament-in-exile, and a mother of four. The other, Mrs. Fereshteh Esfandiari, was a director of the news department of the Voice of Mojahed radio and an anchorwoman for the Resistance's television programme. She was the third member of her family to be slain by the Iranian regime.

3. The 17 May attack marked the first time that Tehran's terrorist agents targeted women members of the Iranian Resistance. On 10 July 1995, three other Resistance members were assassinated in a similar fashion. Ibrahim Salimi (36), Yarali Gartabar (33) and Hussein Sadidi (34) were members of the People's Mojahedin of Iran.

4. On 6 July, Germany's Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution reported that the Iranian regime had embarked on activities against Iranian dissidents and refugees living in Germany, including intelligence-gathering efforts. The German Interior Minister, Manfred Kanther, called for the expulsion of the Iranian regime's intelligence agents from that country. According to press reports, the Iranian embassy in Bonn is the nerve centre for the clerical regime's terrorist plans and operations in Europe.

5. The New York Times reported on 25 June 1995: "... Iranian diplomats working out of their embassy in Bonn plotted to disrupt a huge opposition rally in Germany earlier this month, perhaps with the intention of assassinating a leading Iranian dissident." This was a reference to the 16 June meeting in Dortmund where the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, was scheduled to speak before some 15,000 Iranians.

6. On 16 May, the Swedish Government announced that two terrorists acting under orders from the Iranian Government were arrested as they prepared to carry out terrorist activities in that country.

7. On 17 July, Juan José Galeano, the judge investigating the bomb explosion in the Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires told an Argentine newspaper that he had found witnesses who could prove that the Tehran Government was involved in that explosion.

8. This year, courts in Paris and Berlin disclosed ample evidence implicating senior Iranian Government officials in ordering the assassination of dissidents abroad. Meanwhile, Tehran has refused to hand over at least 2 of the 13 agents of its official service to Switzerland, where they are wanted for their participation in the assassination on 24 April 1990 of Professor Kazern Rajavi near Geneva.

9. Despite a formal pledge on 22 June to the European Union to revoke the death decree against Salman Rushdie, a senior cleric reaffirmed, in a 10 July

interview with the State-run daily Jomhouri Islami, that the fatwa against the British novelist and the reward for his death are still in force. According to a report on 9 July by The Washington Post, the regime's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, insisted that the decree was irreversible.

10. This intransigent behaviour is simply the continuation of what the world has come to witness as being the official policy of the clerical regime for the past 16 years. During the last decade, different bodies of the United Nations have condemned Tehran in 34 resolutions for the persistent and flagrant violations of human rights and continued sponsoring of terrorism beyond Iran's borders.

11. Khomeini's heirs' refusal to alter the course laid out by their mentor has more recently led to the regime's greater isolation on the international scene. Last June, 1,725 parliamentarians from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Parliament demanded in similar statements the imposition of a comprehensive trade, oil and arms embargo against the ruling dictators. Previous to this global initiative, the United States unilaterally imposed trade sanctions on Tehran, banning United States companies from engaging in commercial dealings with the Iranian regime.

12. In early July, Norway downgraded its diplomatic ties and discontinued its trade relations with Tehran, calling on other Nordic countries to follow suit and adopt a more decisive policy vis-à-vis the clerics.

13. The signatories to this statement believe that the policy of "critical dialogue" with a Government which has trampled upon all internationally recognized laws and standards only encourages the mullahs to perpetuate their 16-year atrocities in and out of Iran. The realities since the European countries instituted this approach six years ago confirm the need to replace as quickly as possible the policy of "critical dialogue" with a firmer and more resolute policy. We call on the Sub-Commission to refer the Iranian regime's inhuman conduct at home and its rogue behaviour abroad to the Security Council to consider the imposition of an arms and oil embargo on the tyrants ruling Iran.